

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A foamable drilling fluid, comprising:

an aqueous solvent;

a surfactant comprising sodium lauryl sulfate; ~~and~~

a salt selected from the group consisting of salts of potassium, sodium and mixtures thereof; and

a polysaccharide polymer, wherein said fluid contains said polymer in an amount between about 1.5 and about 3.0% w/v, said surfactant in an amount between about 0.3 and about 1.0 % w/v, and said salt in an amount between about 0.1% and about 0.5% w/v.

Claim 2 (original): The fluid of claim 1, wherein said polysaccharide is derived from a galactomannan gum.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The fluid of claim 2, wherein said galactomannan gum is selected from the group consisting of hydroxypropyl guar, guar gum, hydroxypropyl carboxymethyl guar and mixtures thereof.

Claim 4 (original): The fluid of claim 2, wherein said galactomannan gum is hydroxypropyl guar.

Claim 5 (cancelled):

Claim 6 (cancelled):

Claim 7 (cancelled):

Claim 8 (cancelled):

Claim 9 (cancelled):

Claim 10 (cancelled):

Claim 11 (currently amended): The fluid of claim 8 1, wherein said salt is potassium chloride.

Claim 12 (cancelled):

Claim 13 (original): The fluid of claim 1, wherein the fluid is a foamed fluid containing a gas.

Claim 14 (original): The fluid of claim 13, wherein said gas is selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, air, natural gas, CO₂ and mixtures thereof.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The fluid of claim 13, wherein the foamed fluid has a density of between about 1.15 and about 5.0 ppg.

Claim 16 (original): The fluid of claim 13, wherein the foamed fluid has a viscosity of between about 25 and about 50 cP for qualities between about 80 and about 95%, at temperatures up to about 180°F.

Claim 17 (original): The fluid of claim 13, wherein the foamed fluid is stable when exposed to oil and salt contaminants.

Claim 18 (original): The fluid of claim 13, wherein the foamed fluid is stable when mixed with crude oil up to at least about 50% w/v of crude oil.

Claim 19 (original): The fluid of claim 13, wherein the foamed fluid has a half life time of at least about 17 min.

Claim 20 (original): The fluid of claim 13, wherein the foamed fluid is stable at temperatures up to at least about 180°F.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A foam drilling fluid, comprising:

a liquid phase comprising an aqueous solvent, a polysaccharide polymer, a salt selected from the group consisting of salts of potassium, sodium and mixtures thereof and a surfactant comprising sodium lauryl sulfate wherein polymer, wherein said fluid contains said polymer in an amount between about 1.5 and about 3.0% w/v, said surfactant in an amount between about 0.3 and about 1.0 % w/v, and said salt in an amount between about 0.1% and about 0.5% w/v;
and

a gas phase selected from the group consisting of air, nitrogen, natural gas, CO₂ and combinations thereof.